

## Visible planets



**Mercury** starts this two-month period in a close conjunction with Saturn in the morning skies before the Sun rises. This innermost planet will move to the opposite side of the Sun and superior conjunction, before reappearing as an evening planet toward the middle of April.



**Venus** will be an interesting planet to observe in the morning presunrise hours over the next two months as it moves eastward passing Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter, in that order. Watch for a very close conjunction with Jupiter on April 30.



**Mars** will be visible over the eastern horizon before sunrise during the next two months. It will be in a unique conjunction with Venus, Saturn, and the waxing crescent Moon on March 28.



**Dwarf planet Ceres** will be traversing nearly the entire length of Taurus the Bull. While not visible to the unaided eye, it could still be followed with optical assistance or astrophotography.



**Jupiter** will be visible above the eastern horizon as it rises about 1–2 hours before the Sun during this two-month period.



**Saturn** rises about 2–3 hours before the Sun rises and, like Jupiter, will be visible over the eastern horizon at sunrise.

## March

- 02 Mercury–Saturn conjunction  
New Moon
- 05 Jupiter in conjunction with Sun
- 08 Moon at ascending node  
Waxing crescent Moon near the Pleiades
- 10 First quarter Moon  
Moon at apogee: 251,200 miles [404,268 km]
- 12 International Day of Planetariums
- 13 Daylight Saving Time starts  
Waxing gibbous Moon near Pollux  
Neptune in conjunction with Sun
- 14 Waxing gibbous Moon near Beehive Open Star Cluster  
Pi Day
- 15 Waxing gibbous Moon near Regulus
- 18 Full Moon
- 19 Waning gibbous Moon near Spica
- 20 Venus at greatest elongation: 46.6°W  
March Equinox 15:33 UT [11:33 EDT]

- 21 Mercury 1.2° of Jupiter
- 22 Moon at descending node
- 23 Waning gibbous Moon near Antares  
Moon at perigee: 229,761 miles [369,764 km]
- 24 Last quarter Moon
- 26 Earth Hour
- 27 Waning crescent Moon near Mars  
European summer time
- 28 Waning crescent Moon near Saturn
- 29 Venus–Saturn conjunction

## April

- 01 New Moon
- 02 Mercury at superior conjunction
- 04 Moon at ascending node  
Waxing crescent Moon near the Pleiades
- 07 Moon at apogee: 251,306 miles [404,438 km]
- 09 First quarter Moon  
Waxing gibbous Moon near Pollux
- 10 Waxing gibbous Moon near Beehive Open Star Cluster
- 12 Waxing gibbous Moon near

- Regulus
- Yuri's Night
- 13 Mercury at perihelion
- 16 Waxing gibbous Moon near Spica  
Full Moon
- 18 Moon at descending node
- 19 Moon at perigee: 226,889 miles [365,143 km]  
Waning gibbous Moon near Antares
- 22 Lyrid meteor shower  
Earth Day
- 23 Last quarter Moon
- 24 Waning crescent Moon near Saturn
- 25 Waning crescent Moon near Mars
- 26 Waning crescent Moon near Venus
- 27 Waning crescent Moon near Jupiter
- 29 Mercury at greatest elongation: 206°E  
Mercury near the Pleiades Open Star Cluster
- 30 New Moon  
Partial solar eclipse  
First picture of Earth from lunar surface